

**FORGERY UNMASKED;
O R,
GENUINE MEMOIRS
O F T H E
T W O U N F O R T U N A T E B R O T H E R S,
R O B. and D A N I E L P E R R E A U,
A n d M R S. R U D D.**

C O N T A I N I N G,

A Number of curious and interesting **PARTI-
CULARS**, and many **ANECDOTES** relative to the
FORGERIES of Messrs. **PERREAUS**; with suit-
able **REMARKS**, &c. &c.

T O G E T H E R W I T H

A Full and Circumstantial **ACCOUNT** of their
EXAMINATIONS before Sir **JOHN FIELDING**,
and the other **Magistrates**; the **DECLARA-
TIONS** made by Mrs. **RUDD**; and her **CASE**,
as communicated by **HERSELF**.

Never before published.

Illustrated with a New and Beautiful Engraving of **MR.
DAN. PERREAU** in the Act of threatening to Murder
MRS. RUDD, unless she would Sign the Fatal **BOND**.

Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice.

SHAKESPEARE.

L O N D O N :

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FORGOTTEN
OF THE
MEMOIRS
OF THE
UNION LUNATIC BROTHERS
AND DANIEL FERRAS
AND MISS R. D. D.

TO THE
LUNATIC BROTHERS
AND DANIEL FERRAS
AND MISS R. D. D.

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AND MISS R. D. D.







*M^r. Dan: Perreau, with a drawn Knife, threatening
to murder M^{rs}. Rudd, unless she would sign y^e Bond.*

Wm. Knapp

FORGERY UNMASKED, &c.

AS the true enjoyment of life consists in a strict and uniform observance of the laws of order, so all the real disgraces and calamities to which mankind are subjected, proceed from a neglect of this divine maxim.

WERE crimes to decrease, in proportion as the severity of laws, enacted to suppress them, increases, England might boast of singular happiness. But, alas! the reverse is woefully experienced every day. Though, by the vigilance of our magistrates, it is evident, that detection infallibly treads, as it were, on the heels of guilt, and though thereby it might be supposed a perseverance in it would not be attempted; yet we see the same offences, which, no longer ago than yesterday, were brought to light, and punished, repeated again to-day, with a more

than double effrontery. Like mites, engendered in the heat of the sun, the harpy-progeny of Fraud and Violence multiply in a series of incredible encrease, and ride triumphant, in the metropolis particularly, over all authority, human and divine.

THOUGH it is not half a century since forgery was rendered a capital offence, yet, even with the gallows before their eyes, forgers abound more than ever. This is not one of the least evils, which has accompanied the prodigious encrease of our paper-circulation, and consequently of our extended commerce, within that period.

Of late, the conversation of all ranks of people has been in a great measure engrossed by the capital forgeries of the two brothers, Daniel and Robert Perreau. Indeed they seem to be the most remarkable that have ever come under the cognizance of justice, in this, or perhaps in any other country. Hitherto, forgeries have been generally committed, as a grand stroke to raise money, and abscond with it: but these unhappy and deluded men appear to have forged one bond merely to discharge another, and to have carried the practice at length to something like a regular trade. By what means their profit or advantage

was

was in the end to arise from this trade, it is difficult to determine. Their lives were at stake, and they were sensible of it. This observation they made to Mrs. Rudd, as will be seen in the course of the subsequent pages, as an incentive for her to sign the last fatal bond; which, by blowing up their nefarious practices, has reduced them to their present deplorable situation. To pay off one bond, by the money they had raised upon another, was a temporary, and at best a fruitless expedient; for whence, in the whole catalogue of possibilities, could any emolument accrue from it to themselves? It might postpone, but it could not prevent, the hour of discovery; and when that hour—that dreadful hour—*should* come, with what accumulated horror was it infallibly to be accompanied? It seems highly probable, therefore, that the whole of their hopes was founded on the uncertain event of the death of one of the gentlemen, with whose names they had made so free; in which case it might have been difficult to bring a proof of forgery. Either this, or a fortunate hit in the Alley, must have been their object.

BE this, however, as it might, as many vague, groundless, and false reports have gone abroad, relative, as well to the offences, for which they

now

are now brought to answer to God and their Country, as to their past connections and situation in life, and those of the cruelly-injured Mrs. Rudd; we hope a candid and authentic state of the whole will be found equally interesting and entertaining.

THESE ill-fated brothers came into the world together; and we sincerely wish, not less for their own sakes, than for the sake of many respectable persons with whom they are nearly and dearly connected, that they may not go out of it together. They are now about the fortieth year of their age; and till this fatal detection, their characters were unimpeached. That of Robert, the apothecary, was particularly so. After serving a regular apprenticeship to an eminent apothecary in Pall Mall, and enjoying the esteem and confidence of all who knew him, his master died, leaving the business to be carried on by Robert, for the behoof of his widow; which he did for a considerable time, with credit to himself, and with emolument to his mistress. Ambitious, however, to figure away in business for himself, he took a large and very elegant house in Golden-Square, set up his carriage, retained a number of servants in his pay, got into the first-rate practice, and was generally, if not
universally

universally, understood to be in a most flourishing way.

ABOUT this time, Mr. Daniel Perreau returned from the West Indies; where he had been settled as a merchant, in partnership with a gentleman from Scotland, one Mr. Jollie. By dissipation, however, extravagance, and neglect of business, Daniel soon involved both himself and his partner in difficulties, and found himself obliged to take refuge from his creditors, in London; and where, in a little time, he found himself publicly announced in the Gazette with a *Whereas* prefixed. Though a bankrupt, and of course, it is to be supposed, without money, and without credit, he had the restless vanity and ambition to have it believed, by the splendour in which he lived, that he was in full possession of both.

As appearances could not long deceive, without something real to support them, he formed a connection with one Mrs. Rudd; a lady, who, unhappy in a husband that was insane, and actually confined in a mad-house, was parted from him, and had, of her own property and in her own possession, no less a sum than thirteen thousand pounds, exclusive of trinkets, jewels, &c.—

With

With this lady, whose maiden name was *Youngson*, and who is the daughter of a gentleman of note in the North of Ireland, Daniel lived as a *husband* from the latter end of May, 1770; and it is but justice to add, that, in the whole of her conduct, there was nothing but the ceremony of marriage (to which, from the above circumstance, there was, for the present, an insuperable bar) which in any degree could exempt her from the character of a prudent and an affectionate wife. Even her life (her fortune she had already given to them) would she have laid down to serve either Robert or Daniel Perreau; and they, with a remorseless barbarity,—a barbarity more disgraceful and more detestable still, perhaps, than even the crimes with which they stand charged, would, in return for such exalted sentiments of generosity, have treacherously sacrificed that life, to save their own. To exempt themselves from the gallows, they would coolly, and without compunction, have devoted to it an innocent and a helpless woman;—a woman, whose chief error through life seems to have been her credulity, and blind attachment to their unworthy selves.—Is there a reader, whose whole frame does not shake at the repetition of the horrid tale?—

As

As we profess authenticity, however, in the present narrative, and have promised in our motto, to "Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice," we shall proceed to relate the circumstances attending the forgeries, as they came out in the different examinations before Sir John Fielding, and the other magistrates, with a few occasional remarks of our own. We shall next give Mrs. Rudd's history, as communicated by herself, of her connection with Daniel Perreau, from its commencement; her refutation of the calumnies which have been so industriously brought against her; and her account, so far as she knew, of the forgeries for which they now stand committed. On these, as well as some other authentic papers we mean to produce, we shall also remark; and then, close our performance, and leave the reader to draw his own further conclusions.

ON Friday, the 10th of March last, Mr. Robert Perreau applied to Mess. Drummonds, bankers, at Charing-cross, to borrow 5000l. on a bond for 7500l. which he purported to be the bond of Mr. Adair, the agent. Upon looking at the bond, Mr. Drummond plainly told him he did

B

not

not think the signature to it was in the handwriting of that gentleman, Mr. Drummond then desired that Mr. Perreau would go to Mr. Adair, and ask him the question. This he promised to do; and on his return a short time after, he told Mr. Drummond, that he had seen Mr. Adair, and that he acknowledged the bond to be his.

As Mr. Drummond still, however, entertained doubts of the matter, he told Mr. Perreau, that, as it was a large sum of money, he did not like to advance it, without consulting his brother; and that, if he would call in the morning, he should then either have the bond back, or the money. To this he readily consented; and, on his return in the morning, Mr. Drummond delivered the bond to him; adding, that he did not choose to advance the money, for that, having shewn the bond to several of Mr. Adair's friends, they all believed it to be a forgery.

ON this, Robert became exceedingly warm; and Mr. Drummond asking him if he would go with him to Mr. Adair, and clear the matter up, they went to the agent's house together. Unfortunately for Mr. Perreau, Mr. Adair was at home. On being asked the question, he immediately declared

clared the bond to be none of his. Mr. Perreau affected great surprise at this assertion, and said, if that was really the case, *he had been strangely duped indeed.* He then asked Mr. Adair if he did not know Mr. Perreau, his brother, and if his wife was not nearly related to him; to both of which questions receiving an absolute negative, Mr. Drummond and he returned to the house of the latter. There they met with Mr. Dagge, who accompanied Perreau to Sir John Fielding's, in order to lodge an information against the parties who had thus imposed upon him. In the course of this enquiry, however, such suspicious circumstances came out, that Mr. Justice Addington, who took the information, did not think it right to let him go. On this, orders were given to bring his brother Daniel, and Mrs. Rudd, of whom he said he had the bond; and as the matter, even from their own stories, became more and more intricate, they were all committed for further examination the ensuing Wednesday, being the 15th of the month.

Accordingly, on the morning of that day, the Public Office in Bow-street was so crowded with genteel people, that the magistrates thought it most prudent to adjourn to Guildhall, West-

minster.* As soon as silence could be obtained, Messrs. Robert and Daniel Perreau, and Mrs. Rudd, were put to the bar. Mr. Drummond, of Charing Cross, was then desired to produce a bond for £ 7500, which had been tendered to him a few days before, by the prisoner, Robert Perreau, apothecary, in Golden Square, purporting to be the bond of William Adair, Esq. of Pall-Mall; and the said bond being produced, Mr. Drummond related what he knew respecting it, which corresponded, in every particular, with the account we have already given.

The bond was then given to Mr. Wilson, a scrivener, at Charing-Cross, who said he drew it for one of the prisoners at the bar, but which, as they so exactly resembled each other, he could not pretend to swear; though he was rather inclined to think it was for Mr. Daniel

* Though on so serious an occasion as the present, it is hardly allowable to excite the risible muscles of our readers, yet we cannot help repeating a smart repartee of one of Sir John Fielding's myrmidons, during the above confusion. A scuffle ensuing between this man, who officiated as door-keeper, and an *Apothecary*, the former said he was ordered by the bench to let in none but *Gentlemen*. "That is Mr. —, the *Apothecary*," quoth a by-stander.—"Oh!" returns the door-keeper—"if that is the case, he must on no account go in, for my orders extend only to *Gentlemen*, and the whole room is filled with *Apothecaries* already."

Perreau,

Perreau, and not for Mr. Robert, the apothecary. On being asked if he had not drawn more than one bond for the same gentleman, he answered, he believed at different times he had filled up eight or nine for the same person.* Mr. Adair was then asked if the bond was his ; and answering that it was not, and that he knew nothing of the parties, he, Mr. Drummond, and Mr. Wilson, were bound to prosecute Mr. Robert Perreau for falsely uttering a bond, knowing it to be forged and counterfeited, and Mr. Daniel Perreau for aiding and assisting in procuring the said bond to be made, forged, and counterfeited, with an intent to defraud.

Dr. Brooke was next called ; and he produced another forged bond upon Mr. Adair, on which he had lent 1500l. to Mr. Perreau, the apothecary, under the same circumstances as the former. Lastly, Admiral Sir T. Frankland was called ; and he deposed, that he had lent 6000l. upon one of the bonds, purporting to be the bond of William Adair, Esq; agent in Pall-

* It may perhaps seem like prevarication in Mr. Wilson, in pretending not to know a customer that had been eight or nine times in his house ; but the candid part of our readers must acquit him of any such design, as the strong and exact resemblance the unfortunate brothers bear to each other, both with respect to their features and figures, renders a mistake of the one for the other extremely probable.

Mall,

Mall, to Mr. Perreau the apothecary; which bond became due the 28th of May last; but Mr. Perreau had paid it off very honourably on the 24th, four days before it became due. He said that in September last, the same gentleman applied to him for 5000l. upon a similar bond, but as he had not the money by him, he wrote a letter to his banker, and desired he might have the money upon depositing a bond of Mr. Adair's, as before, which was accordingly advanced to him. Some time after that, he advanced him 4000l. more upon his note, which would become due the 28th of that month, and took another of those bonds as a collateral security. Upon being asked how he came to have so much confidence in Mr. Perreau, he said he had attended in his family, and he always considered him as a very different kind of man. He had often, he said, heard him mention Mr. Adair, and always understood that Mrs. Rudd, the lady who passed for Mr. Daniel Perreau's wife, was either a ward, or a natural daughter of Mr. Adair's; and that he was so fond, and so much attached to her, that he intended to do great things for her and her husband, and talked of a seat in parliament, and of purchasing him a Baronetage, &c. These bonds were also drawn by Wilson, and shewn to Mr. Adair, who dis-

owned

owned them, as before. Dr. Brooke and the Admiral were therefore bound over to prosecute.*

THESE examinations being finished, the brothers were asked by the Bench, if they chose to say any thing in their defence; on which Robert replied, that when he offered these bonds to raise money upon them, he considered them as good and valid, and had no design to defraud either Mr. Drummond, Sir Thomas Frankland, or Dr. Brooke†. Mrs. Rudd was then asked how she came to say before Mr. Drummond and Mr. Adair, that she forged these bonds, which, it seems, she did assert upon being taken into custody, and replied, *she said this in hopes of saving Mr. Perreau's life.* Being asked by Mr. Bailey, her counsel, and the Bench, if she chose to be admitted an evidence for the king, and to unravel the whole of this iniquitous business, she replied, *Upon these terms she would tell all she knew.*

* We do not wonder that Sir Thomas should be taken in a second time, as the first bond was honourably discharged; but we are amazed how so knowing a man in money-matters as the Knight is said to be, should at first have advanced so large a sum as 6000l. upon any man's bond, without seeing the person that was to pay it when due, especially as Mr. Adair lives in London, and is every day to be seen.

† The witnesses to all the above bonds bore the same names as the clerks in Mr. Adair's office.

This

This being accepted, she said that about a fortnight ago, Mr. Robert Perreau gave her a paper, which she believed to be the bond that was afterwards tendered to Mr. Drummond, and bid her take care of it, as it was of consequence, and he should call for it again. She said she did not read it, but put it by, as she was directed, and in about four days gave it back to Mr. Perreau, when he called for that purpose. Being farther interrogated relative to this business, she declared she knew nothing of, or concerning, the drawing or uttering any of these bonds. She was then asked, if she had not passed herself upon her acquaintance as the near relation of Mr. William Adair, the agent, when she replied that she never did; she always said she was a very distant relation of Mr. Francis Adair, and that she had every reason to think so still. She gave her testimony with a great deal of modesty, and without hesitation.—The two unfortunate brothers also, who are twins, behaved with great decency; and as they are both handsome, genteel men, and well known in the polite circles at the west end of the town, many people seemed affected at their unfortunate situation. They were committed to New Prison, and Mrs. Rudd to Tothill-fields,

In consequence of her being admitted an evidence for the crown, Mrs. Rudd underwent two other examinations; one on Thursday the 16th of March, before Mr. Justice Wright, and Mr. Justice Addington, at the public office in Bow-street; and one, on Friday the 17th, before Sir John Fielding and the other magistrates, at the same place.

In the course of these, being interrogated in the closest and most solemn manner relative to the forgeries, for which Messrs. Daniel and Robert Perreau stood committed, and informed of the fatal consequences that would attend her concealing or misrepresenting any part of their transactions within her knowledge, she, with a faltering but pathetic voice declared, "That she always considered Mr. Perreau as a man of small fortune till September two years ago, when by breaking into his drawers, she found that he had been a bankrupt; but as there was no want of money, and as she believed he had large transactions in the funds, she concluded all was right: they gave out among their friends of both sides, for their mutual credit, that they were really married, and he constantly said among his friends in all his gaming transactions, that he got his intelligence from, and was indemnified by Mr. Adair,

Esq; of Pall Mall : that she once had four thousand pounds in her custody for one night, which she understood Mr. Robert Perreau had borrowed of Sir Thomas Frankland upon his own note, and that she never heard of any bond given to him, till since their discovery : this money was the next day paid to Mr. Huckey, the attorney, for the house Mr. Perreau purchased of Mr. Collins, in New Bond-street. That a few days before the discovery made of the forgery by Mr. Drummond, Mr. Robert Perreau came to her, and shewed her a bond, (the same that fell into the hands of Mr. Drummond) and shewing her a letter, asked her if she could imitate the handwriting of the name signed at the bottom of it ; saying, that the person who usually did that business for them was out of the way, and it was necessary to have it done, to save the credit of him and his brother. To this she said little, was much surprized, and desired him to leave the paper ; he did so, and in the evening she told Mr. Daniel Perreau of the request his brother had made, and he also desired it might be done. They called upon her several times, to know if it was signed, and the day before the bond was presented to Mr. Drummond, Mr. Daniel Perreau desired to know why she did not sign it, saying, Mr. Drummond would advance money

money on it if it was done ; and if they did not get the money the next day, a transaction would transpire that would endanger his and his brother's life. Still she begged to be excused, and said she would do any thing for them, if they would not insist upon her signing that paper. He then flew in a passion, drew a knife from his pocket, and protested he would cut her throat, if she did not sign the bond immediately ; which request she complied with, he standing over her all the time, with a drawn knife in his hand ; that in the morning, Mr. Robert Perreau called for the bond, and she gave it to him, as has been before related. She called God to witness, that this was all she knew of the transaction, and that she never once heard of a bond given to Sir Thomas Frankland, or Dr. Brooke. As soon as this matter was likely to be blown up, she went to Mr. James Adair, in Soho-square, and told him what she had been compelled to do, and asked his advice relative to her future conduct." Mr. Adair was immediately sent for, who corroborated all she had said,

Here we cannot omit doing justice to Sir John Fielding, and the two other magistrates, that preside at the Public-office in Bow-street: the

great pains that was taken to come at the real truth of this business does singular honour to Sir John Fielding. The solemnity, that was with so much propriety assumed by the Bench on this occasion, joined to the plaintive tone of Mrs. Rudd's voice ; the artless manner in which she told her story, and the decency of her whole portment, produced a scene so truly pathetic, as to draw tears from many of the spectators.

Thus ended the last and most solemn examination of Mrs. Rudd ; with which the Bench appeared so highly satisfied, that they very readily admitted her to bail ; her two sureties (who are both respectable tradesmen) in the small sum of one hundred pounds each, and herself in that of two hundred pounds more.

Mrs

The CASE of Mrs. RUDD, as related by herself.

THE conspiracy formed against my life by Messrs. Perreaus,—the detainer of all my wearing apparel, and every other part of my property; that is to say, jewels, plate, china, household linen, and furniture, whereby I am left total destitute, with three children, of even the common necessities of life, will, I hope, be considered by the world a just cause for my laying before them the following narrative of facts, which nothing less than the injuries I have sustained, could extort from me.

THE low scurrility of anonymous newspaper paragraphs is infinitely beneath my notice,—so are the writers of them. Indeed, I am rather obliged to such than otherwise, as the scandal they aim at me being wholly devoid of truth, necessarily recoils upon themselves. There is a certain sort of people whose censure I ever did, and ever shall, consider the highest praise. The wickedness and infamy of my accusers' deeds, and their whole treatment of, and behaviour to me, will best speak my innocence and their guilt.

C A S E

C A S E.

When I declared, on my examination, that Mr. D. Perreau has had thirteen thousand pounds of my money, besides plate and jewels, I spoke within the sum I really possessed; rather chusing to say it was less, than more, being conscientiously scrupulous of attributing to him any part of my own immediate expences, at the time we came together. How that sum has been expended, I will, as well as I can, recollect,—truly and unreservedly relate,

First, at the time of the convention, Mr. P—lost in 'Change-alley 1300l; which loss I paid.

In March following, paid Mr. Portis broker, 800l. which stock Mr. Robert Perreau managed in Daniel's absence.

Spent in the summer, at Paris, during our residence there, 700l.

I gave Mr. D. P—, in autumn, 1771, 1400l. which he told me gave Messrs. Keble and Sadleir, insurance-brokers, to insure the war. I understood Mr. Sadleir afterwards, that the whole

whole premiums were lost; that had he gained, (*take notice*) the profits were to be equally shared with Robert P—— and Colonel K—b—. It was an agreement in all their jobbing transactions, that when a loss happened, Daniel always did, and was to pay it out of my money; and if a profit ensued, Robert was to have, and had, half. I gave him at different times, to pay his various private debts, not less than 1000l.

I paid his sisters Susan and Esther Perreau, at sundry times 800l. which sum he had from me to pay them a debt contracted *prior* to my knowledge of him before, and at the time of his bankruptcy.

I also gave him to pay Mr. Fakney, of John-street, Clerkenwell, 300l. which sum I paid him at once, but found out afterwards, that he paid Mr. F. at different times, and that his bond was less than three hundred pounds: it was given him by Mr. D. P——, prior to his bankruptcy, and for a loss in the Alley. In April 1772, he came to me one evening where I was on a visit, appeared much hurt in his mind, and told me that he was greatly distressed for 500l. to pay Messrs. Gemmells, of the city, who had arrested him some months before, and his brother with
another

another friend had bailed him ; that the bail was out, and consequently his brother answerable ; conjured me to assist him, to prevent the trouble this affair must give to all his family, and begged my pardon for deceiving me in the preceding November, when he had got from me four hundred pounds to pay that very debt, but had used it other ways ; the said four hundred pounds I have included in the thousand pounds I charge his private debts with. I felt the cruelty and unfeeling injustice of this conduct towards me, and answered with the warmest remonstrances and reproach ; said I had no money, nor would I give any : he then asked for my jewels, swore he would have the money some way or other, upon which I threw him the key of my jewel-box, and said, If you are so totally lost to principle and regard for me, as to prevail upon yourself to pawn my jewels, you may ; or words to that effect. He did pawn them with one Brown, a pawnbroker ; I afterwards redeemed them of Mr. Cates, of little Bedford-street, in the Strand ; Cates had them from Brown on his quitting business. They were pledged for 515l. Mr. Gemmell's bond, I heard with interest, was only 470l. given for a joss in the Alley. In autumn 1772, I gave him money to pay Mr. Elliott, a laceman, of Tavistock-street, for a woman who goes by the name of

of

of Miss Hill, and which he made me then believe he had received from Mr. O——w for her use, but was necessitated to use it for his own private purposes; and begged me to reimburse, to prevent her exposing him to Mr. O——w. In December 1772, when I went to Scotland, I left with him in cash fifteen hundred pounds, and one hundred and fifty to pay for our coach then building—1650l.—which money was all lost in stock-jobbing in my absence; also on my return I found the greatest part of the plate and my wearing apparel pawned, I was obliged to borrow seventy pounds from Mr. Stewart, a first cousin of mine, (who came from Scotland with me) to redeem my cloaths and plate, until I could call in some money of my own. I gave D. P. that summer to pay Mr. Greenfield, the broker, four hundred pounds; and likewise Mr. Sapertas the Jew, one hundred and fifty pounds, 550l. paid the intire expences of house-keeping, family, and personal expences of all sorts, for near four years, which must, I think, at the lowest calculation amount to three thousand five hundred pounds, 3500l. There is besides the above account the board, education, cloaths, &c. of the aforesaid Miss Hill, which he constantly paid and remitted to Mr. La Roche, of St. Omer, in France, for a year and half after my living with

D

him,

him, under the pretext that he did it for Mr. O. and that he himself was only the ostensible donor; also the many expensive presents, money and other things he made to Col. K——, and all and every part of his own family, during the first four years; which transactions, presents and expences were paid for with, and from my money, which I can aver, and will, if required, make oath of.

NOTE. That Miss Hill lived with, and is the reputed sister of the late notorious Lucy Cells, whom some reported was kept by the before-mentioned Mr. O——, and from thence I presume arose Mr. D. P——'s intimacy with, and care of this reputable person. From the above facts, it must appear he had from me and of mine what I have therein specified. I cannot pretend to ascertain the sum it cost in housekeeping, therefore may have calculated *more or less* than it really was. I beg to observe that during the time mentioned, he sold, at different periods, jewels of mine, to a considerable amount, which will stand against answering the expences, transactions, &c. which I can affix no certain charge to.

NOTHING less than the evident premeditated conspiracy of Messrs. Perreaus against my life,
and

and Daniel's most dishonourable, unexampled wickedness, and disowning my being his wife, thereby disgracing me and his infants, and reducing us to absolute beggary, could have extorted from me any exposure or word that would even tend to defame or hurt him; but wrongs like mine strike too deeply at every human feeling to be borne with silent resignation. Nature and reason call upon me to explain my injuries, to vindicate the little property I now can call my own, and by a true, candid, and attested account of myself and conduct, submit my justification to the generous impartial public.

THE numerous false calumnies industriously propagated by the Perreau's family, and their adherents, I pledge myself to refute as soon as I am able to recollect and recover myself a little more, from the extreme shock my mind has so recently suffered. My story is very simple, easily told, and as easily proved. My motives for confiding my honour, person, and fortune, to Mr. Perreau, were founded on the most tender faithful affection for him, and the delicate powerful sense I felt of the duty I owed him as his wife, (for as such I ever considered myself and acted) and the unbounded confidence I had in his mutual love, integrity, and honour. My eyes

were opened to his want of all these sentiments, when too late to retreat from him, without exposing myself and children to reproach and indignity—a dreadful alternative to chuse; happy, however, would it have been for me had I embraced the latter; I should then have escaped the snare laid for my life, the horrors and shame of a prison, and the more excruciating misery of being exposed like a felon at a bar of justice; the inexpressible anguish of such a situation is more easily conceived than expressed; indeed no language could give an adequate idea of my feelings; let those who possess nice sensibilities, a genteel mind, and feeling heart, judge of, and pity me,

Mrs. Robert Perreau may please to recollect I have often said in her hearing, that I could forgive an *injury*, but not an *intended insult*, therefore her affecting now to be affronted at my being introduced to, and living with her in the familiar intercourse of a sister-in-law, together with the vile falsehoods she reports of my having lived with a gentleman, and tricking (for that is her elegant phrase) him out of considerable sums, is both weak and wicked; she knew I was not married to her brother. I think it her highest merit to say, she did, and that her heart
and

and head were good enough to overcome a single prejudice in my favour, who from her knowledge of every circumstance relative to me and my conduct, even from my birth to that period, must be convinced I was justly intitled to her greatest respect and esteem. The daughter of a man of fashion, nobly descended and as nobly allied as I am, could be no degrading alliance to any family; to so private a one as this, it certainly was a very great honour. The gentleman she has mentioned me with in so false and scandalous a manner, will, as a man of honour and veracity, publicly declare at a proper time the intire falsity of this malicious contemptible aspersion.

THE detaining of two gowns left by me at Mr. Robert Perreau's last summer, and the *mean* injustice of Mrs. P. refusing them to my written order sent by Mr. Bailey my council, need no comment *.

* Mrs. Rudd acknowledges, that since her case was written, and sent to press, she has received these gowns from Mrs. Robert Perreau, by the hands of Mr. Bailly.

** Let it be remarked, that Mr. D. Perreau's Certificate of Bankruptcy was signed the 4th day of May, 1776, and I came to him the 20th.

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It has been erroneously said in the newspapers, that on my examination I declared myself the daughter of a Scotch nobleman; I never said or intimated the like (and beg it may be contradicted): I am the daughter of an untitled Man of *Fashion*, in the real and true signification of the word, and am infinitely *too proud even* to wish myself descended from any other family than that which I have the honour to derive my birth from, being convinced there are very few *so noble—none more.*

DID I wish myself revenged of the Perreaus, I should be amply so in the base, contemptible lies they daily propagate and get conveyed to the public by anonymous letters. Such conduct must to every intelligent person shew them and their cause in a *true light*: I assure them with the utmost sincerity that I despise their wicked machinations, and pity the shocking depravity of their hearts.—Poor mistaken people! what pains they take to expose themselves! I do, and ever must, with the keenest anguish lament my credulity and misfortune in having confided the most inestimable blessings in life, *honour*, and fortune, to a man, who, in return to such exalted generosity and faith, the purest, most unbounded affection, has with unparalleled villainy and black ingratitude

ingratitude combined against my life ; plotted to bring me to an ignominious death, in a *mode* and for *reasons* which humanity must shudder at, and what one would imagine the most hardened villain could not have been bad enough to put in practice ; defamed me and his children ; reduced us to absolute beggary and irreparable misery.—The discerning, good part of mankind will best characterise and judge of this conduct, while conscience (a faithful monitor) will I doubt not yet wound him deeper for the wrongs he has loaded me with.—“ A guilty mind needs no accuser ”—to that and his own reflections I consign him.

I HAVE always said, that I never thought Daniel Perreau, a man of fortune: when we came together, he told me his income was three hundred a year, (the principal placed in the funds). This inferiority of fortune gave me pleasure ; as it afforded me an opportunity of proving the disinterestedness of my attachment, and the supreme felicity of obliging him by a delicate, well-timed generosity.—The *manner* more than the gift confers the obligation.—My feelings on this point have ever been so refined, that while he preserved *even the shadow* of decorum in his frequent calls for money, I studied to know his wants, to
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relieve them *unasked*, and thereby spare his and my own sensibility the pain of discussing so unpleasant a topic.——In his happiness I placed mine; I therefore valued fortune but in proportion as it contributed to his ease and credit.

FROM the moment we lived together, I considered myself in every sense his wife, (there was then a reason why it was impossible for us to be married), and practiced the virtues and duties of one in the fullest sense. I defy the most rigid nicety to point out any instance or action in my conduct, wherein I was not the affectionate, faithful wife; the tender, good mother; the generous friend, and respected acquaintance. Whilst I was charged with domestic matters (which was near four years) I managed our family with genteel frugality; attempted no parade nor finery beyond the reach of my finances, and paid all tradespeople within my department, punctually; nor can malice itself disprove what I here assert, or any part of my story. *Truth* and incontrovertable facts will ever prevail over falsehood and *fabricated scandal*; upon that solid basis I found and rest my justification. I am not the first woman of character who (without being an idiot) has been deceived by specious professions and appearances, or suffered the tenderest of all sentiments

timents to subdue her reason and lull her prudence; but I believe I am the only one who ever was treated with such unmerited treachery, hypocrisy, and infernal wickedness;—let me hope, for the honour of human nature, that there does not exist another Daniel Perreau.

In my former letter I have given a true account of all money matters which belonged to me, or that I was any way concerned in; I shall now proceed to a detail of what I know of the Perreaus, at the time, and since they have received me as D.'s wife, 'till which period I saw none of them except Robert, him I scarcely spoke to, having conceived a mean opinion of him from his stock-jobbing with my property (as I have before-mentioned); conscious of my vast superiority, and that whenever it was convenient for me to reveal myself, they must see and feel the honour done them and their brother:—I was quite indifferent about what their ideas might be, in my concealed state.

At this time my uncle Stewart having heard of my situation, wrote to me, representing in the most affecting, parental terms, the imprudent impropriety of my attachment, that should it ever, from design or chance, be discovered an il-

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licit connection, the disgrace it would reflect on me; that my fortune being independant, and sufficient to support me in elegance, I was totally inexcusable; and unless I made myself an alien and outcast for ever to my friends and family, I must instantly determine either to quit Mr. P. and return to my family, or declare ourselves married; in either case, he would be reconciled to, and receive me with respect. At this period I was a mother, part of my fortune squandered, my heart still devoted to D. to which the forcible endearing tie of father to my child, contributed much; therefore, parental duty, love and discretion, fixed my choice of the latter. Agreeable to this, I went to Edinburgh, in December, 1772, where my uncle Stewart and his family met me; there I not only saw, and was caressed by my relations, but also acquired many friends, persons of the first sense and consequence, whom I can take upon me to aver, both respected and loved me; nor can I suppose they will now do otherwise, as their esteem arose from a knowledge of the excellencies of my heart and disposition, and what they were pleased to term the amiableness of my manners; qualities, which neither villainy nor misfortune can rob me of.

The losses incurred in the stocks in my absence, and the distressful situation I found Mr. P. in at my return, in consequence of them, drove me almost to distraction. A mere trifle, comparatively speaking, of my fortune now remained. Indigence and shame stared me in the face. In short, I was every way ruined. For after the step I had just taken with my family, on what pretext could I separate from D. ? and how could he maintain me and our children? (we then had two.) At last, as the only thing to be devised, he agreed, on my paying certain debts, which would preserve his credit, that with the residue he would commence stock-broker. However, this plan required time to negotiate and put in practice, especially as he proposed going into partnership with some established one.—Humiliating as this must appear to a woman of elegance, cruel necessity not only obliged me to assent, but view it in an advantageous light, as a resource from penury and reproach.

It is a well known truth, that the sufferings of the mind will powerfully affect the body. This was my case. A series of afflicting events had, ever since my living with Mr. P. tortured and kept me in a state of distressing agitation, which gradually impaired my health. I was much in-

disposed all that summer, (1773.) In the latter end of August he went to Paris with two gentlemen, (as he said) on purpose to form an intimacy with them, whereby he should be furnished with undoubted good intelligence to jobb upon; likewise to settle a plan of correspondence there with some private friends of his.

In his absence a relation, who knew me from infancy, came to visit me; a man of fine sense, great experience, intelligent and penetrating; he told me Mr. P.'s *real* circumstances, his character, and whole conduct. This was the very first intimation I ever had of his bankruptcy: in one word, he fully proved, that D. had made a prey of my money to gamble and fortune hunt with; that during the first two years of our connection, he particularly addressed three ladies, of handsome fortunes, which he and his family had practised every possible art and means to succeed with. Admonished me to exert myself, as I was now his declared wife, known universally as such, and to have henceforth a proper intercourse with his family, which would effectually prevent any of the like attempts in future. Being so nicely circumstanced, I must endeavour to forget the past, and make the best of evils I could not redress. To effect which, it was absolutely

folutely proper to be no longer duped by his artifices ; to fee with mine own eyes, and act from the dictates of my own reason. Shocked and amazed beyond expreffion at thefe discoveries, I was deprived of the power of utterance, and could only thank my kind adviser with tears. Roused now to examine as far as poffible into P.'s affairs, I looked into the drawer, which contained his private papers, there I faw his certificate figned the 4th of May, 1770, and many other things that convinced me fully of the truths I had juft heard. This piercing ftroke entirely deftroyed the little health I had, and hurried me into a dangerous confumption. Robert P, at this crisis came often to fee me, though prejudiced in his diffavour, from the caufe I have before affigned, upon a more intimate acquaintance, I found him fenfible and well bred ; the world fpoke him a man of integrity and difcretion, much efteemed, and of great reputation in his profeflion.

I therefore, without hesitation, gave him a candid, circumftantial detail of every thing relative to myfelf and his brother ; I even related what had happened between Mr. Rudd and me ; his profligacy, infanity, and the perfonal abufes I received from him, which occafioned our final
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separation. He seemed much affected at the melancholy recital, and with apparent sincerity replied, He was infinitely surprized, nay shocked, at his brother's behaviour, which was highly reprehensible; that D———had always been so reserved about me, that, though he saw there was somewhat unusual and mysterious in the connection, he restrained his curiosity, and avoided asking any questions of him upon the subject. He vowed, with regard to money transactions, D———had given him to understand, he made a capital sum at the time of the convention of Falkland island; of course, he thought it was the said money he played with, and lived upon from that time to this; assured me of his best services, and that he would express his sentiments very freely to D———, and endeavour to bring him to a just sense of the respect and grateful affection due to me; likewise consult his wife how to account for our marriage being so long a secret, to prevent impertinent surmises. This behaviour very justly impressed me with the best opinion of the goodness of his heart and understanding. From that moment, until the affair of the Bond, and the Conspiracy against my life, I felt for him the greatest esteem and sisterly affection, upon all occasions. 'Till then he discovered the like for me; treated me with so much

much tenderness and attentive care in my illness; spoke every where so handsomely of me, that I *really* would have done any thing that could not touch my life or honour, to oblige and serve him.

I LIKEWISE, till the late affair, found Mrs. Perreau extremely amiable, sincere, and unaffected; exclusive of relationship, I esteemed and loved her; how she has prevailed upon herself to propagate detestable and indelicate truths, is a species of mean depravity which exceedingly surprizes me.

WHEN D—— P—— returned from France, the beginning of October, I was so ill, that Dr. Brooke advised the country air, and strict regimen, as the only means to save me. We went to Kentish Town, staid there till near Christmas. Here D—— shewed much contrition for his past errors; made the most solemn protestations of an entire reformation; expressed such tender sorrow for my sufferings and indisposition; attended, watched over me with such affectionate assiduity, that I forgot every thing disagreeable, and only thought of, and felt his present goodness. But this happiness soon vanished.

I CONTINUED dangerously ill all the winter. The 25th of April, 1774, I was delivered of my youngest child. As soon as I could be safely removed, it was judged absolutely requisite,
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for the benefit of my health, to go into the country. I proposed for us to hire a small, ready furnished house, sufficient to lodge ourselves and children decently. This humble proposal did not suit his consummate vanity, and ill-judged, ridiculous extravagance. He answered me with a good deal of acrimony, That while he had been dependent upon my fortune, he submitted to my governing our domestic expences, and stile of living; but that being now entirely independent of me, he would please himself; that he was in a prosperous certain way of acquiring a considerable fortune; therefore was resolved to spend and live like a man of affluence. From this speech I very naturally concluded, he was at last possessed of what he had been in pursuit of for years, viz. good political information, whereby he would not fail of realizing the riches he spoke so confidently of; every one, who knows any thing of 'Change-Alley, knows that numbers have, and actually do, make fortunes out of it. Upon this assurance, I remained satisfied of its being really the case; consequently, whatever expences he engaged in since, did not surprize, nor could not appear mysterious to me: the scheme of turning Broker of course ceased.

THE remaining part of my case I shall postpone, as it must be chiefly on a subject so interesting to the Messrs. P—— (viz. their whole behaviour to, and conversation with me from the day Mr. Drummond made the discovery, to the time I was brought to Sir John Fielding's;) therefore I defer it from motives of compassion, and a fervent sincere wish to avoid saying or doing ought which might possibly prejudice them in the minds of the public (or appear to aim at so doing) previous to their trial.

WHAT I have hitherto related had no connection with this last unhappy affair, being merely an explicit true account of myself and conduct, prior to the exposure of that matter, and to prove by demonstrated facts, how falsely my enemies represented me, and how undeservedly I was persecuted and traduced by them. Such people may be justly termed the assassins of reputation, and who, like Milton's serpent, envious of superior goodness and happiness, plan to destroy, and endeavour to make the world believe others are as bad themselves.

I know at this moment the Perreaus are concerting abominable falsehoods, whereby they hope to blacken my character, and devising every possible scheme to further distress and ruin me; yet, for the reasons assigned above, even this, added to my former most cruel injuries, I shall not

make resentment prevail over the tender, powerful sense I have of humanity and lenity even to my inveterate foes; I trust in God I shall ever have strength of mind enough to practise towards them these virtues.

M. C. RUDD.

P. S. I HEAR it has been observed in some news-papers, that I contradicted myself, by first saying I was now left to absolute beggary, and just afterwards, in the same letter, used the following words, "That I must vindicate the little property I could yet call my own." The explanation is plain: Mr. Perreau's assigning his house to Sir T—— F——d, and all my personals, furniture, &c. being therein, and which the said Baronet has detained, and still persists in keeping, I say, has left me at present to absolute beggary, and want of even the common necessities of life; I have not a decent change of cloaths, nor what the meanest of my sex would think so; and I do, and have ever since my enlargement, lived on the charity of two humane people, (whose names shall be hereafter told) otherwise I should not have bread to eat, and must beg in the streets, or starve.

As Sir T. has no more right to my cloaths, or any part of my property, than he has to any other person's that he never heard of, I
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presume he thinks my poverty secures him from the power of the law; however, he will soon find himself mistaken; I will not only have my right from him, but expose his whole behaviour to me upon this occasion."

THE following Letter requires little comment. Those who are acquainted with Mr. STEWART OF BALIMORAN, will be little surpris'd at the warmth, the indignant contumely, with which he reprobates the conduct of Messrs. Robert and Daniel Perreau; especially, when to this acquaintance, the recollection is added, that Mr. Stewart is UNCLE to Mrs. Rudd, and has been, in every thing but the name, a PARENT to her from the years of infancy. The Letter is dated *London, April 11th. 1775.* and address'd to Mr. DANIEL PERREAU, as follows;

JOHN STEWART, Esq; of *Balimoran, County of Down, Ireland;* to Mr. DANIEL PERREAU, late of *Harley-street, London.*

S I R,
MRS. RUDD's tenderness and mercy to you and your brother, shall not deter me from publishing my sentiments of you, your family, advisers and colleagues; and exposing the numerous arts you *jointly* and *separately* practis'd, to work upon her compassionate, feeling heart, and

affection for you, to *persist* in saying she gave your bond to Robert, without telling the other facts of her having *first* received it from him and all the minutiae of that black transaction; also on the Wednesday (after being at Mr. Adair's in Pall Mall) how you *then*, to excite her compassion farther, and raise her fears still more for your lives, discovered Sir T———d's having the like bonds with Robert's notes as collateral security; *pretended* to go to Mr. Henry Dagge, *only* (as you told her) in order to consult him which way to raise money on your own effects to pay Sir T. to prevent your brother becoming a bankrupt, and liable to a prosecution from the baronet. That apprehending your brother was safe in regard to Mr. Drummond, every thing would be silenced, could Sir T. be paid. You told her that Mr. Dagge had great influence with Mr. Drummond, and was also a *weak, credulous man*; of course would readily credit the *fabulous, absurd story* you manufactured to tell him, and most artfully prevailed with this deluded, innocent woman to countenance and corroborate, by repeating it after you to him, and before *each*; assuring her with solemn imprecations that you meant nothing by this application and story to Dagge, but to get money for Sir T. and save your credits, and if necessary make a friend of him to shuffle the affair with Mr. Drummond; and she,

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(as a woman) being entirely ignorant of *such* matters and the consequences to herself of adopting your advice, also from affection and what she religiously believed her absolute duty as your wife, complied with your desires; for *your wife* she was in every moral sense, in the sight of man, and from her strict invariable adherence to, and practice of, all the duties and virtues of one. I believe the subtlest casuist, or greatest devotee, will allow her to have been likewise *so* in the sight of God; therefore her mind must be on this and all occasions under the *same ascendancy* as if the priest had joined your hands: her *person* and *reputation* should with you have been *as sacred*.

The part you acted in this deep conspiracy; the disavowing her for your wife; stripping her of all her property, valuables, &c. forcibly preventing her going to consult a lawyer (though she conjured you on her knees only to be permitted to know how far her own life was safe in doing what you desired); and when alarmed by the most flagrant appearances of some underhand schemes, by the conduct and speeches of your brother and Dagge; and finally, the horrid attempt to bring her to an ignominious death, in order to exonerate and save yourselves, give you, Sir, the *pre-eminence in wickedness*, to all the villains I ever heard or read of. Man-kind must blush to see a fellow-creature so de-

generate;

generate; and posterity will surely curse the authors of such a complicated, dark, infernal crime.

I SHALL now mention one thing, amongst the many in my power, to strike, if possible, daggers into your mind; I mean your unnatural, brutal conduct to your present offspring, those beautiful infants, who, you and your brother said, might go to a workhouse, when Sir T. F——d asked how you would have them disposed of, upon his taking possession of your house.—Detestable brutes! did you consider that these little innocents had from their birth been reared with careful delicacy, attended and served with elegance; and you, most unnatural, cruel father! did you reflect they were your own children, and that their mother had given you in cash and effects, sixteen thousand pounds, which you basely squandered, and which ought to have been preserved for her support and theirs?

Now, Sir, is it possible to conceive that impudent ignorance could be carried so far, as I am sorry to say it is, in your brother Robert's wife declaring, she thought herself affronted at Mrs. Rudd's being introduced to her as a sister-in-law? Fine, affected Madam! I suppose she derived those *high* sentiments from the *noble* descent of a West-Indian parson's daughter, and the *elegant education* given her under the care and direction

direction of the late Mrs. Perreaus, *Milliners*, in Tavistock-street.—Such little *gentry* are a *pest* to superior society, and a *burlesque* on the *name* of gentlewoman.

BUT it avails not to preach with people lost to honour and principle; I have left my family, and come a long journey for more efficacious purposes; resolved to *detect* and *expose* villainy; *protect* injured innocence; and as far as law, justice, and the personal power of man can go, to revenge my niece upon her *intended* murderers, the actual plunderers of her fortune, and defamers of her character; for her wrongs make my aged heart bleed at every vein.—I was the guardian of her youth (an orphan at eight years old)—she knew no other parent; I ever loved her as such, and she was all the fondest one could wish; sensible, an elegant accomplished mind, graced with every female virtue; beautiful, well-bred, and, to use the poet's words, “of gentle manners, as a soul sincere.” My misery is inexpressible, to see this child of my affection, in her bloom of life, and full perfection of sense, crushed, sunk into the lowest abyss of misfortune.—I pray God to support me under this weighty affliction, and graciously preserve me to see her redressed.

JOHN STEWART.

THUS,

Thus, with a heart overflowing with all the agonising sensations, which an affectionate parent can feel for a child dishonoured and undone, does the venerable Mr. Stewart vent forth his bitter lamentations over the hapless Mrs. Rudd. Indeed, if an excess of fond credulity, and generous confidence—if to *love* and be a *woman*, a *helpless* and an *injured* woman—deserve commiseration, to this Mrs. Rudd seems to have an ample claim. From a state of affluence and splendor—from scenes of blissful contentment, tranquillity, and happiness, to be reduced so low!—What heart that does not bewail her errors, that does not bleed for her sorrows, the sorrows of her innocent relations, and those of her still more innocent offspring!

To be truly noble, is to be generous to a vanquished foe. This Mrs. Rudd has been in a very eminent degree, by throwing a veil over the remainder of her affecting narrative, till that awful day shall have elapsed, in which Mr. Robert and Mr. Daniel Perreau must stand, and answer for the solemn charge; a charge, of which, as men and as christians, we devoutly wish they may be found able to exculpate themselves.

THE END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

